

RESOLUTION: GB1106-2

DEFENSIBLE BORDERS FOR ISRAEL

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS meeting in Jerusalem on 19-21 June 2011

RECALLS that:

- (a) the 1949 Armistice Agreements entered into between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria respectively each made express provision to the effect that the Armistice Demarcation Lines established by those agreements (which have since become known as "*the Green line*" or "the June 4, 1967 lines") would not be construed in any sense as permanent political or territorial borders;
- (b) after the armistice in 1949, and until they were captured by Israel during the Six Day War in June 1967, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were occupied respectively by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Arab Republic of Egypt, which used those territories as a base from which to threaten, attack and attempt to destroy Israel and made no attempt whatsoever to foster or promote within those territories, Palestinian national self determination;
- (c) one of the principles for establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, as affirmed by UN Security Council Resolution 242 (1967), is "*the right of every State in the area [which includes Israel] to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force*";
- (d) Resolution 242 was affirmed "*in all of its parts*" by UN Security Council Resolution 338 (1973) and has been reaffirmed in numerous subsequent resolutions of the Security Council; and
- (e) whilst Resolution 242 also calls for withdrawal of Israel's armed forces from "*territories*" occupied in the 1967 war, it does not specify the precise extent of the withdrawal and leaves open the possibility that any future border in the West Bank may differ from the June 4, 1967 lines, as acknowledged by US President Obama in his speech to AIPAC on May 22, 2011.

RECALLS FURTHER that US President George W. Bush in a letter dated 14 April 2004 to Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ("the Bush letter") affirmed that:

- (a) "*As part of a final peace settlement, Israel must have secure and recognized borders, which should emerge from negotiations between the parties in accordance with UNSC Resolutions 242 and 338.*" and
- (b) "*The United States reiterates its steadfast commitment to Israel's security, including secure, defensible borders, and to preserve and strengthen Israel's capability to deter and defend itself, by itself, against any threat or possible combination of threats. In light*

of new realities on the ground in Israel, including already existing major Israeli population centers, it is unrealistic to expect that the outcome of final status negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians will be a full and complete return to the armistice lines of 1949, and all previous efforts to negotiate a two-state solution have reached the same conclusion. It is realistic to expect that any final status agreement will only be achieved on the basis of mutually agreed changes that reflect these realities."

and that the terms of the Bush letter and the commitments made in it on behalf of the United States were overwhelmingly endorsed by both the US House of Representatives and the US Senate.

CALLS UPON the international community and all fair-minded people of all nations to acknowledge that:

- (a) a sustainable peace between Israel and its neighbours:
 - (i) cannot be established by recreating the territorial conditions that led to the 1967 war, or by ignoring the demographic changes that have taken place in the West Bank and Jerusalem since 1967;
 - (ii) cannot be imposed upon the parties to the conflict by fiat or diktat; and
 - (iii) must be based on the recognition by the legitimate Palestinian leadership of Israel as the nation state of the Jewish people;
- (b) no vote at the United Nations will ever create an independent Palestinian state or change facts on the ground, as recognition of statehood must follow the reality and cannot create the reality;
- (c) no country can be expected to negotiate with a terrorist organization sworn to its destruction, and that Hamas (and any authority of which it is a part), cannot therefore be accepted as a legitimate interlocutor in negotiations for a peace settlement unless and until it recognizes Israel's right to exist as the nation-State of the Jewish people, renounces violence and adheres to all existing agreements;
- (d) Israel's final borders with a future Palestinian state must be determined in final-status negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, in accordance with the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements (1993), the 1995 Oslo Interim Agreement (which still governs relationships between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, until a final peace agreement is achieved) and the agreements and international declarations that have followed and cannot legitimately be predetermined, prejudged or imposed by any party, authority, state or other body; and
- (e) establishment of a Palestinian state must be part of a comprehensive peace settlement in which the Palestinians declare an end to their conflict with Israel and to all claims against Israel beyond those provided for in the terms of settlement.